

[Beloved] God chose us—He predestinated us, His elect. Every sinner saved by His grace—this man whose body lies here in this casket—who’s now with Christ in glory—he is holy and unblameable before God. And he was made that before he left here—because God chose him “...in love: *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...*” (EPHESIANS 1:4-7). What does it take [for God to make a sinner a saint]? It takes God’s sovereign election to make [a sinner] a saint—but it takes more than that; it takes blood atonement, it takes an effectual redemption, it takes the doing and dying of the Son of God as the sinner’s substitute. Jesus Christ, God’s Son, before the world was, before time began, before ever there was a star in the heavens, before ever an angel sang God’s praise; Jesus Christ stood forth in covenant mercy as the surety of His people and He stood forth as the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He said ‘I’ll go, I’ll redeem them’ and [beloved] He redeemed us at Calvary with His precious blood. Jesus Christ the Son of God assumed total responsibility for His people before the world was. He lived in this world in obedience to God as our representative, He went to Calvary as our substitute, and He was made sin as our surety. And when He was made sin for us, our sacrifice, God almighty drew forth the sword of His justice and slaughtered His Son in the fury of His holy wrath—until justice was satisfied, God said ‘that’s enough’—God said ‘that’s enough; justice requires no more, holiness requires no more, righteousness requires no more, I cannot require more.’ Justice is satisfied for them and those sinners redeemed by Christ’s precious blood, those sinners for whom atonement has been made, those sinners for whom wrath has been put away, for whom justice has been satisfied and at God’s appointed time are regenerated, born again, called from death to life by the power of God the Holy Ghost in what’s called the new birth. Yes if you would be holy—you must be born again. It’s not enough that you have a righteous record, it’s not enough that your sin be put away, it’s not enough that you have a record of righteousness in obedience—[my friend] you’ve got to have a holy nature—you’ve got to be born of God—you’ve got to be created new—and only God can do that. You can get baptized so often that every tadpole in the pond knows you by your first name—it won’t do you any good. You can make decisions and walk the aisle and say ‘I believe in Jesus’ and say the sinner’s prayer—it ain’t gonna do you any good. Most of you [reading this article] have been through that time and time again and you know full well it hadn’t done you any good—[my friend] you can’t birth yourself into the kingdom of God! This preacher can’t birth you into the kingdom of God! His church can’t birth you into the kingdom of God—“*you must be born again*” you must be born of God. And that which is born of God is that holy thing which cannot sin—it is Christ in you—a new man created in *righteousness* and in *true holiness*—a new creature in Jesus Christ the Lord. [AMEN!]

An excerpt from ‘**Blessed are the Dead which Die in the Lord**’ (REVELATION 14:12-13)

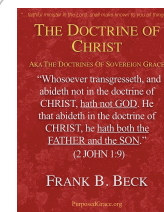
PASTOR **DON FORTNER**

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ADDRESS

23033 Hughey Ave  
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MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 2160 77357

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### **“TAUGHT BY HIM”**

“IF SO BE THAT YE HAVE HEARD HIM,  
AND HAVE BEEN TAUGHT BY HIM, AS THE TRUTH IS IN JESUS” (EPHESIANS 4:21)

Dear reader, it is not enough to hear the Word of Truth, further to that, it must be made to effectually work in you by God's Spirit.

Beloved, remember what our Lord said? He said *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”* (JOHN 3:5).

And so, when Paul writes *“...if ye have heard Him”* he is speaking of the living water our LORD spoke of—the Word of God. You see, it's not the words of men that effectually work in you who believe; it is not merely the water of His word in of itself, either. Our Lord said *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”* (JOHN 3:5).

And so, if you are to be born again, you will not only hear the water of His word, but you will be *“taught by Him.”* By His Spirit we are quickened, indeed made to believe *“according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved”* Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ (EPHESIANS 1:5-6).

You see, if you have been made to hear the Bible as God's word, you will hear it as clean water—indeed the pure water of *the Word of Truth*. And *“He shall”* cleanse His people from all their filthiness. Beloved, *“...ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness...”* *“...ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. I will also save you from all your uncleanness...”* [EZEKIEL 36:25,28,29; EPHESIANS 5:25-27].

And so, what is it that God teaches His people by the preaching of the Gospel? God's people find the answer here in the last part of our text—*“the TRUTH is in JESUS!”*

I want to know that the Lord Jesus Christ knows me; that He was sent to cleanse me from all my filthiness; I want to know that He gave His life to save me from all my filthiness—don't you? Oh how I want to say before Him; behold the Lamb of God who takes away all my sins, oh can it be? blessed thought, that I am hearing Him with the ear of faith *“...Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile”*? (JOHN 1:47). Beloved, His Spirit testifies with your spirit today—for today is that perpetual never ending day of salvation for His people! You hear it by His Spirit, because of that vital, never to be severed, union with the beloved Son of God—Christ Jesus the Lord—*“Blessed is [the sinner] unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile”* (PSALM 32:2).

Reader, God's people don't just *believe that*, you see they are given life and are made to *know it* [ROMANS 8:28, 1 JOHN 5:19,20]. Beloved, indeed all God's people are made to know it, *“we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life”* (1 JOHN 5:20). Heavenly Father, let your people know that; indeed *“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear”* (LUKE 8:8).

Sinner, you will not see what you are until you are put into the light of the Son of God. And know this, He will put all His people into the light of His beloved Son, [if you are among His people] He will send His Spirit into your heart crying Abba Father, and He will have you to behold His glory in the face of His darling Son.

*“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”* (2 CORINTHIANS 4:6).

PASTOR

**“To speak what I do NOT believe is hypocrisy. NOT to speak what I do believe is cowardly. To speak what I believe only when and where I know it will be received is deceitful.” PASTOR HENRY MAHAN (1936—2019)**

### **“YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN”**

“MARVEL NOT THAT I SAID UNTO THEE, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN” (JOHN 3:7)

[Reader] this thing of salvation begins with somebody's choice—but not your's. [Rather] it begins with God's choice. [You see] this thing of salvation is by God's purpose—not your purpose, it's by God's will—not your will. Listen to the Scriptures *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him...”* (EPHESIANS 1:3-4).